

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. IX, No. 12, December, 1911*

From Some Editorial Notes:

Salvarsan.—It is unfortunate that there is such a prevailing opinion that salvarsan has displaced mercury, and that one injection of the new preparation will cure a large percentage of syphilitic infections. It is undoubtedly true that salvarsan may abort early lues, will usually clear up syphilitic eruptions quicker than mercury, works well where the latter drug fails, and is a specific in malignant syphilis. Nevertheless, it is seldom that one injection has the desired effect. . . . —H. M.

Cancer.—In spite of recent valuable additions to our knowledge of cancer, the treatment remains virtually the same, radical removal of all surgically accessible growths. There is no present indication of change. So far therapeutic progress has been achieved mainly within the domain of surgery and has consisted of the development of technical methods all having a common end, complete removal. . . . —M. S.

Specialism.—An eminent gentleman spoke disparagingly of the modern tendency toward specialization in the healing art. Said he: "The day of the good old family doctor is, or will soon become a thing of the past; now every portion of the body is covered by a specialty, except the umbilicus. And even that," concluded the learned one, "is in imminent peril." . . .

Our contention is that the tendency to specialize was the inevitable result of problems repeating themselves which called for original thought and recurrent experience, and that without it scientific medicine must have been impossible. . . .

Annual Meeting of the Medical Society, State of California.—The attention of the members is called to the fact that the annual meeting of the State Society will be held in April, 1912, at Hotel Del Monte. The Committee on Scientific Work is now considering the matter of arranging the program and those desirous of presenting papers are respectfully requested to send their titles as soon as possible to Dr. William Ophüls, Chairman Committee on Scientific Work, Lane Hospital (corner Clay and Sacramento streets), San Francisco. . . .

From an article on "The Significance of Pelvic Pain" by Ray Lyman Wilbur, M.D., San Francisco.

Any physician who deals much with sick women and who has not had his senses somewhat dulled by the constant repetition of the complaints of pain in the pelvis, back, legs and abdomen that daily assail him must be without the normal type of nervous system. Experience has shown him that so many of these pains disappear or are no longer spoken of as soon as health follows anemia, rest follows fatigue, comfort follows worry, happiness follows gloom, or normal peristalsis of the bowel is established, that he unconsciously discounts most of the assertions made to him and often looks upon them merely as hysterical or neurasthenic manifestations. Yet pain, as we all know, is our greatest friend whenever the peritoneum is threatened, and we know what a prominent part in acute illnesses and early deaths the peritoneum plays. Where would modern abdominal surgery be were it not for pain? Its triumphs would be of a very different sort than they are today. . . .

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

* As stated on page 355 of the September, 1911, issue of the *California State Journal of Medicine*, owing to the illness of its editor, Dr. Philip Mills Jones, the *Journal* would be brought out by the Publication Committee.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

"Officers of the State Board of Medical Examiners retained their offices here after an election at the annual meeting here. Dr. William R. Molony of Los Angeles president; Dr. Clark L. Abbott of Richmond, vice-president; and Dr. Charles B. Pinkham of San Francisco, secretary-treasurer, are the officers. Doctor Pinkham has held his position for twenty-four years. . . ." (Associated Press dispatch, dated Sacramento, October 21, and printed in the *San Diego Tribune*, October 21, 1936.)

The following changes in status of licentiates were made by the Board of Medical Examiners at the annual meeting held at the State Capitol, Sacramento, October 19 to 22, 1936:

Isaac S. Clark, M. D., Long Beach, narcotics, on October 21, 1936, placed on probation for five years without narcotic privileges or possession.

Hugo W. Foss, M. D., Los Angeles, narcotic violation. Licensed revoked on October 21, 1936.

George W. O'Donnell, M. D., San Francisco, alleged illegal operation. License revoked on October 21, 1936.

Frank J. Parizek, M. D., Los Angeles, narcotics, on October 21, 1936, placed on probation for five years without narcotic privileges or possession.

Lee Edward Smith, M. D., Oakland, violation of probation re narcotics. Licensed revoked on October 21, 1936.

Wade H. Walker, M. D., Long Beach, narcotic violation. Licensed revoked on October 21, 1936.

George H. Wymann, M. D., Los Angeles, penitentiary sentence re abortion. License revoked on October 21, 1936.

The hearings on the following were continued to the next meeting of the Board, to be held in Los Angeles: John E. Cummings, M. D., Los Angeles; Henry L. Gardner, M. D., San Francisco; Oscar Charles Long, M. D., Brawley; Francis W. Steddom, M. D., Los Angeles; George E. Watts, M. D., Los Angeles; Thomas D. Wyatt, M. D., Redding.

The following were dismissed: Quinter O. Gilbert, M. D., Oakland; Samuel A. Twain, M. D., Berkeley.

News Items

"Hysterics and a fainting spell by a woman witness yesterday threw out of gear the Superior Court trial of fourteen women as alleged operators of a gigantic Pacific Coast illegal operations syndicate. . . . Mrs. Gladys Duckworth of Santa Monica, a former patient of the operation syndicate, was unable to tell her story to the jury because of an emotional outbreak brought on, she explained, by word that she had just been discharged by her employer, a Santa Monica dentist. She said the dentist objected to her agreement to testify in the case and had communicated her discharge by telephone as she waited in an anteroom to the court. . . . A ten-minute recess was ordered and she returned to the anteroom, where she toppled to the floor in a dead faint as her name was called again. . . . When she had been restored to consciousness, Deputy District Attorneys Verne Ferguson of Los Angeles and J. J. McMahon of San Francisco informed her she need not testify at all unless she wished. . . . Meantime her divorced husband, Frederick Duckworth, gave brief testimony, which was to have followed Mrs. Duckworth's as corroboration of her statement that she became critically ill after an operation in 1935 at the alleged Los Angeles Clinic of the organization. . . . Her testimony, Ferguson said, will be similar to that given at yesterday morning's session by Mrs. Dorothy Woods of Long Beach. Both stories, the Prosecutor informed the Court, will substantiate the prosecution claim that leaders of the alleged

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster an advertising page 6.